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PARASITE-PROOF SCREEN LIDS FOR COLLECTING AND REARING JARS

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Larvae of the raisin moth, Ephestia figulilella Greg., confined in Kerr type mason jars, are subject to high mortality if the jars are tightly closed. To remedy this condition the removable centers of standard 2-piece tops were replaced by discs of brass wire cloth of 24 to 36 meshes per inch. However, these covers made it possible for the parasite Microbracon hebator Say to sting larvae crawling or resting on the under surface of the lids by thrusting its ovipositor through the screen.

The type of cover now used is made with two screen discs, one soldered inside and the other outside the lid collar, thus providing a space between the outer and inner screens through which the ovipositor of the parasite cannot successfully penetrate. Liquid solder serves admirably for attaching the screens. Moreover, if applied uniformly to the edge of the upper disc, it dries down into a smooth seal about the sharp circumference.

